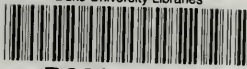


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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES :

I herewith transmit a letter of the Secretary of the Navy; of this date, covering the official report of the naval engagement between the James River Squadron and the enemy's fleet, in Hampton Roads, on the 8th instant :

The officers and men of our Navy, engaged in this brilliant affair, deserve well of their country, and are commended to the consideration of the Congress.

The disparity of the forces engaged did not justify the anticipation of so great a victory ; and it is doubly gratifying that it has been won upon an element where we were supposed to be least able to compete with our enemy.

Special attention is called to the perfidious conduct of the enemy in hoisting on the frigate Congress a white flag, and renewing fire, from that vessel, under the impunity thus obtained.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

March 11, 1862.



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LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Richmond, March 11th, 1862.

TO THE PRESIDENT :

Sir—I have the honor to lay before you the official report of the naval engagement between the James river squadron, under the command of Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan, and the enemy's fleet, in Hampton Roads, on the 8th instant.

Flag Officer Buchanan, in the immediate command of the steam sloop Virginia, was disabled near the close of the engagement by a painful though not dangerous wound, and the report is made by the Executive Officer, upon whom the command devolved, Lieut. Jones.

The steam sloop Virginia of ten guns, the Patrick Henry, Commander Tucker, of six guns, the Jamestown, Lieut. Commanding Barney, of two guns, the Raleigh, Lieut. Commanding Alexander, the Beaufort, Lieut. Commanding Parker, and the Teazer, Lieut. Commanding Webb, each of one gun, composed our squadron. With this force of twenty-one guns, Flag Officer Buchanan engaged the enemy's fleet, consisting of the frigate Cumberland of twenty-four guns, the Congress of fifty guns, the St. Lawrence of fifty guns, and the steam frigates Minnesota and Roanoke each of forty guns, the enemy's batteries at Newports News, and several small steamers armed with heavy rifled guns.

The engagement commenced at 3:30 P. M., and at 6 o'clock P. M., he had sunk the Cumberland, captured and burnt the Congress, disabled and driven the Minnesota ashore, and defeated the St. Lawrence and Roanoke, which

sought shelter under the guns of Fortress Monroe. Two of the enemy's small steamers were blown up, and two transport schooners were captured.

The Cumberland went down with all on board, her tops only remaining above water ; but many of her people were saved by boats from the shore.

The loss of the enemy has not been ascertained. Our loss is very small, but has not been officially communicated.

The flag of the Congress and the sword of the officer commanding at the time of her surrender, are at this Department, together with the flag and sword of the gunboat Fanny, captured by Flag Officer Lynch, in October last ; and I submit for your consideration the propriety of providing for the safe keeping of these and similar trophies.

To the dashing courage, the patriotism and eminent ability of Flag Officer Buchanan and the officers and men of his squadron, our country is indebted for this brilliant achievement, which will hold a conspicuous place among the heroic contests of naval history.

With much respect,

Your obedient servant,

S. B. MALLORY,

Secretary of the Navy.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN HAMPTON ROADS, MARCH 8TH, 1862.

C. S. STEAM BATTERY, "VIRGINIA," }
Off Sewell's Point, March 8th, 1862. }

FLAG OFFICER :

In consequence of the wound of Flag-Officer Buchanan, it becomes my duty to report that the Virginia left the yard this morning, at 11 A. M., steamed down the river past our batteries and over to Newport News, where we engaged the frigates Cumberland and Congress, and the batteries ashore, and also two large steam frigates, supposed to be the Minnesota and Roanoke, and a sailing frigate, and several small steamers, armed with heavy rifled guns. We sunk the Cumberland, and drove the Congress ashore, when she hauled down her colors and hoisted the white flag; but she fired upon us with the white flag flying, wounding Lieut. Minor and some of our men. We again opened fire upon her, and she is now in flames. The shoal water prevented our reaching the other frigates; this, with approaching night, we think, saved them from destruction. Our loss is two killed and eight wounded. Two of our guns have the muzzles shot off, the prow was twisted, and the armor somewhat damaged; the anchor and all flag staffs shot away, and smoke-stack and steam-pipe was riddled. The bearing of officers and men was all that could be wished, and in fact it could not have been otherwise, after the noble and daring conduct of the Flag-Officer, whose wound is deeply regretted by all on board, who would gladly have sacrificed themselves in order to save him. We were accompanied from the Yard by the Beaufort, Lieut. Parker, and Raleigh, Lieut. Alexander; and, as soon as it was discovered up the James

River that the action had commenced, we were joined by the Patrick Henry, Commander Tucker; the Jamestown, Lieut. Barney, and the Teazer, Lieut. Webb, all of which were actively engaged, and rendered very efficient service. Enclosed I send the Surgeon's report of casualties.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CATESBY AP R. JONES,

Ex. and Ordnance Officer.

Flag-Officer F. FORREST.

SURGEON'S REPORT.

C. S. S. "VIRGINIA," }
Near Sewell's Point, March 8, 1862. }

SIR—I have to report the following casualties resulting from the action of to-day. Flag Officer F. Buchanan, wounded in the left thigh, a Minnie ball having passed entirely through the fleshy portion, grazing femoral artery, and inflicting a serious wound.

Lieut. R. Minor, wounded in the left side, (not dangerously.) Midshipman Marmaduke, slight wound of arm. Two men killed, (names not known,) and five men wounded, one losing an eye.

Very respectfully,

D. B. PHILLIPS,
Surgeon of the Flag Ship.

LIEUT. CATESBY AP ROGER JONES,

Confederate States Navy.

Killed—Charles Dunbar, — Waldeck.

Wounded—Wm. Burke, seaman; John Capps, A. J. Dalton, company E, 41st regiment; Emerson Joas, John Leonard.



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